



Required Textbooks One photocopy book.

Assessments A series of short papers.

Course Description:

The course will examine how Latin literature in late antiquity and in the medieval West did not simply continue classical traditions but self-consciously reinvented them. We will begin with writers who were in direct continuity with classical Latin tradition and gave it Christian inflection (e.g., Prudentius and Faltonia Betitia Proba). Then we will turn to Carolingian writers who in the ninth century reconceived Latin as a literary and liturgical language distinct from the emerging vernaculars. We will see how twelfth-century poets experimented with new forms but were deeply conscious of what they viewed nostalgically as the lost culture of Latin antiquity. Finally, we will see how Humanist writers self-consciously reasserted what they viewed as classical alternatives to Scholastic and other recent trends.

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